



Highlights

IOM gathering beneficiary feedback following its response to disaster affected communities, Southern Highlands province. © Peter Murerera/ IOM 2019

■ IOM has improved access to potable water in Lagui community, Morobe province through the rehabilitation of a gravity fed water supply system.

■ IOM has enhanced food and livelihood security in rural communities in Jiwaka province through training and the distribution of seeds and farming tools.

■ IOM in partnership with ExxonMobil PNG Limited delivered shelter toolkits to 1,000 households in remote earthquake affected communities in Hela province.

Situation Overview

Papua New Guinea regularly faces emergency situations induced by natural and man-made hazards. This report presents an update of IOM's work during the last quarter of 2018 and the beginning of 2019. During the reporting period, the country experienced a number of emergency situations including a large fire incident at Kitava compound in Alotau, Milne Bay province, flooding in Minj, Jiwaka province and the eruption of Manam volcano in Madang province. IOM supported the Government to respond to these emergencies by providing non-food items to the displaced and affected population.

Working in close cooperation with government at national, provincial and local government levels, IOM is improving the lives of vulnerable persons in several remote communities in the country. As part of its response to the 2018 Highlands earthquake, IOM promoted safe shelter recovery benefiting 40,969 people in Hela and Southern Highlands provinces. IOM equipped local communities, schools and health facilities with 17 rain harvesting tanks promoting access to potable water to 26,915 people in Southern Highlands Province.

IOM continues to support the resilience and minimize the risk of disaster-induced migration of local communities as a result of natural hazards, through its Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) programming. Through CBDRM planning in Lagui in Morobe province, IOM supported the implementation of a community driven project which has improved access to clean and safe drinking water for Lagui community members.

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NFI Non-Food Items

On 6th December 2018, during an attempt by the police to curb criminal activities in Alotau town, **Milne Bay province**, Kitava compound burnt down, which resulted in the destruction of 21 houses and the displacement of 157 people (29 households). In partnership with the National Disaster Centre and the Milne Bay Provincial Disaster Centre, IOM responded to the needs of the displaced population by providing each household with a non-food item kit comprising of kitchen utensils, water jerry can and soap.



IOM distributing non-food item kits to displaced Kitava compound residents. © Gracia Moliola/ IOM 2019

Following the heavy rains which triggered a large landslide causing a temporary dam to form and extensive flooding in Minj Hetwara community in **Jiwaka province**, IOM, in collaboration with the Provincial Disaster Centre (PDC), distributed one thousand 10 litre water containers to improve water collection and storage among the affected population. IOM's water containers benefited a total of 2,638 people (1,199 males and 1,439 females). The PDC Coordinator thanked IOM its support highlighting the containers will help beneficiaries collect water for drinking and other household uses such as cooking.



Children from beneficiary households holding water containers distributed by IOM. © John Kupu/ Jiwaka PDC 2019

During the distribution, IOM and PDC teams raised awareness of community members on natural hazards and disaster preparedness by distributing 300 pamphlets on flooding (100), landslides (100) and storms (100).

IOM response in terms of non-food items to disaster and displacement affected people included the distribution of 10 litre water containers (2,000) to 600 households affected by volcanic eruptions at Manam Island in **Madang province**.

Water Supply

IOM is working with people in Lagui community to minimize the risk of disaster-induced migration. During a community-based disaster risk management planning exercise facilitated by IOM (in close cooperation with Morobe Provincial Administration), women of Lagui identified access to potable water as one of the key drivers of displacement during an emergency and therefore the community's priority need.

Funded by USAID, IOM promoted access to potable water in Lagui community through rehabilitating a pre-existing gravity-fed water supply. The community driven project saw Lagui people providing labour while materials for rehabilitation, technical assistance and logistics support came from IOM, Morobe Provincial Health and Morobe Provincial Disaster Center respectively.



IOM staff and Lagui residents at a water point rehabilitated with support from Morobe Provincial Administration. © Willie Nombi/ IOM 2018

The rehabilitated water supply is benefiting 609 people in Lagui. A community member, Fredah Alester highlighted, *"I am very happy to receive safe and clean water right at my door step."* She further noted that rehabilitation of the water supply has stopped women and young girls from having to walk long distances to fetch river water for their household use. Speaking on behalf of the community, Councillor for Lagui Mr. Nalau Ahi noted, *"Our community is experiencing the effects of sea level rise. Surface water sources along the*

coast have been polluted making water unsafe for drinking. We are now getting clean water from the gravity fed system and this will help reduce incidents of water borne diseases in our community”.

 **Food Security and Livelihood**

IOM’s sustainable agriculture interventions have resulted in improved food and livelihood security among the beneficiaries in Jiwaka province. As part of its mitigation activities, IOM targeted vulnerable communities and delivered trainings on conservation farming including distributing drought tolerant seeds for crops and farming tools to local farmers. IOM monitoring activities found out that beneficiaries are applying the knowledge gained and benefiting from IOM’s supported rice production.



Beneficiaries of IOM sustainable agriculture interventions processing their harvested rice. © Thomas Mek/ IOM 2018

Realizing the benefits of growing rice in the area, the Councillor for Tolu Ward 2 in Banz Local Level Government bought a rice processing machine for IOM’s beneficiaries. Beneficiaries highlighted the Councillor is encouraging community members to grow rice as a supplementary source of food and livelihood.

Beneficiary farmers contacted by IOM mentioned that rice farming is embraced largely by women and children as they feel it requires less labour to grow. Others mentioned that growing rice is benefiting them a lot, highlighting that the crop can be grown in a small land area and produce good yield when properly managed.

The subsistence farming of rice is supplementing beneficiary household’s income as they sell part of their harvest. Shedding tears of joy, an elderly woman from Kaming community Mrs. Mania Elis said, *“All my life I used to think that rice does not grow here and had to buy packed rice from the stores. Thank you IOM for bringing the seeds and encouraging us to plant rice. I now realize that I can grow and eat my own rice.”*

 **Partnerships**

IOM partnered with ExxonMobil PNG Limited to promote shelter recovery in vulnerable, remote earthquake affected communities in Hela province. The partnership ensured that at least 5,000 vulnerable people in remote areas only accessible on foot or by helicopter received shelter and non-food relief item kits from IOM, funded by USAID.

The kits, which were distributed in close cooperation with the local government, included tools (such as claw hammers, hand saws and spades) to enable communities to gather local bush materials and reconstruct homes destroyed by the quake. *“This partnership with Exxon will create pathways of cooperation in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goal principle that ‘no one is left behind.’ It will provide much needed assistance to the most vulnerable people affected by this massive national disaster,”* said IOM PNG Chief of Mission Mr. Lance Bonneau.

When the disaster struck, ExxonMobil PNG Limited provided warehouses and used its transport assets, including helicopters, to transport IOM and other aid workers, together with emergency relief, to affected communities. While the emergency phase of the response has now ended, work is continuing to repair the devastation and build resilience of local communities to future disasters.

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